

Leper

A Leper can smile if ...

1348



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Throat treatme



African lepers singing

*This is
a Leper*



in India

These are Indian lepers



Leper women cooking for the children

This is a leper. He happens to live in the Congo Belge, but he might live in the Philippines, in Korea, in India, in Puerto Rico, in Iran, in Mozambique, or in our own United States.

He shows few marks of the grim disease — but he might be pitifully disfigured, or lacking toes or fingers, or twisted and deformed. He lives in a clean brick hut—but he might be hiding alone in a broken jungle shelter. He has blankets and simple clothes, he eats regularly and well, he works each day at the weaving loom, he attends church and school, he is a respected member of his little community. Except for the incredible chance which brought him to the Christian leper station, he would still be a cowering beggar, unknown and unknowing.

Once he crouched trembling in the darkness of life. Today he comes in long, hopeful lines to the sunshine of the modern Christian leper home to find men and women who help him cure his body and feed his soul.

Together they march,
and seek for help.



... and this is his child

Eight-year-old Bhiku* was born to leprous parents who came to the colony at Chandkuri when he was three. He has a small brother and sister, both as happy and smiling as he. There is not a mark on Bhiku, not a sign of the disease which struck so tragically at his parents two decades ago. Like any healthy boy anywhere, he is fond of sports and not so fond of school, likes some foods and dislikes others, sleeps soundly and grows steadily "in length and width" with each passing year.

Bhiku is completely normal, as all children of lepers are at birth. Fortunately, he was brought to a leper colony where that basic medical fact was known. He was removed from among the leprous residents before any symptoms could assert themselves, and taken to a pleasant home on the grounds, created expressly for children like himself. Here he is being brought up in the Christian faith, potentially a fine citizen of his native land.

Cruel to take a child from his father and mother? It is difficult at times, but the parents understand, and are glad. They smile with Bhiku and proudly watch him grow to manhood untainted and free.

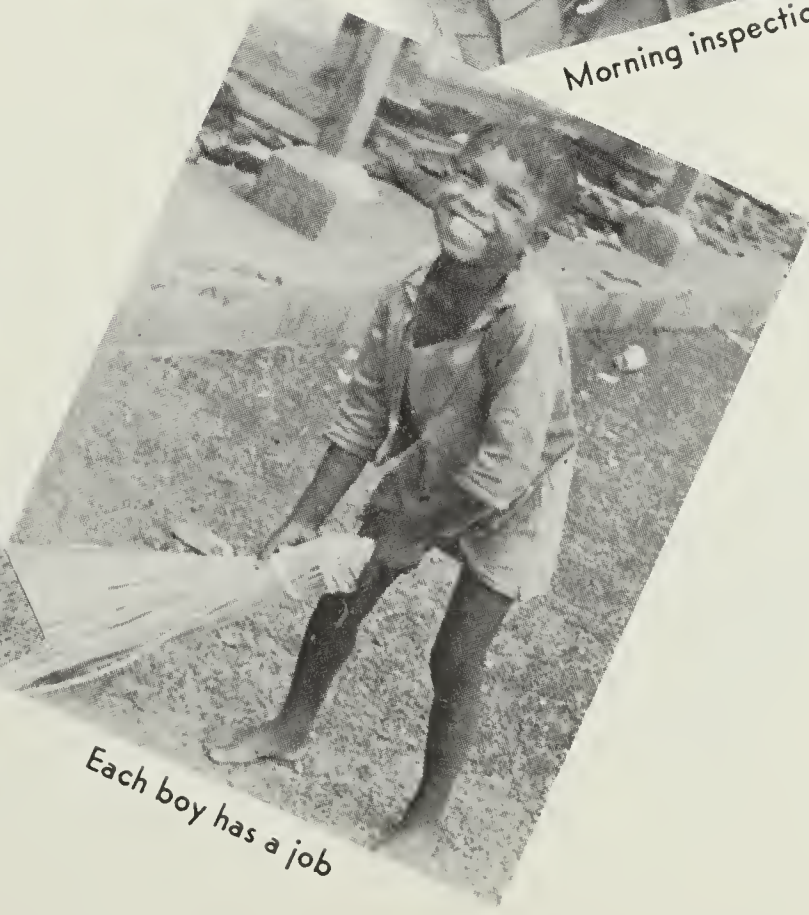
*Not really the child of the man on page 2—the man is African, the boy Indian—but typical of healthy offspring of leper parents in all parts of the world.



Morning inspection for neatness



He writes his mother



Each boy has a job



*What is
Leprosy?*



A TEXT-BOOK OF MEDICINE

By AMERICAN AUTHORS

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242

THE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

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LEPROSY

Definition.—Leprosy is a chronic, infectious, and contagious disease caused by the *Bacillus lepræ*. It presents a great variety of signs and symptoms owing to its tendency to implicate different tissues of the body; and usually results in death, either directly or indirectly, as the result of grave complications.

History.—There is evidence that leprosy occurred as long as two thousand years before the beginning of the Christian era. Several references to the disease are made in the Old Testament. It was common in Europe between the second and seventh centuries. In the eleventh and twelfth centuries a great epidemic began which devastated the populations of England and the continent, lasted for several centuries, and gradually subsided during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, so that at present the disease exists in several thousand years ago. In parts of the Orient (Egypt, India, China) it probably occurred several thousand years ago. In Europe the segregation of the victims of the disease in leproisiums led to a gradual local wiping out of the scourge, so that at present the disease occurs only endemically and sporadically in different regions, chiefly in Iceland, Scandinavia, Russia, northeastern Germany, Galicia, Hungary, the Balkan Peninsula, Spain, Portugal, Southern France, Greece, Italy, Turkey, and parts of South America.

Incidence.—Very few parts of the world are today entirely free from the disease. Leprosy is common in China, Japan, the Philippines, the East Indies, Malaysia, Australia, India, Turkestan, Arabia, and many other parts of Asia. It is frequently encountered in Egypt, northern and southern Africa, and many other coastal countries of that continent. In the Western Hemisphere it is most common in the Hawaiian Islands, Mexico and Central America, the West Indies, the northern countries of South America, and in Paraguay. In the United States foci have existed for many years in Louisiana, Minnesota, and South Carolina. Sporadic cases are not infrequently seen in the larger cities of the Atlantic and Pacific seaboard because of immigration from countries mentioned above. A few foci exist also in Canada.

Etiology.—Leprosy is produced by the *Bacillus lepræ*, which was discovered in 1873 by Hansen. The mode of invasion of this organism is not definitely known, but a considerable amount of evidence points to a probable transmission by inhalation. In many lepers the nasal septum seems to be the first site of attack. The mucosa of the gastro-intestinal tract might be the path of infection. Some investigators believe that certain insects, such as the bedbug, mosquito, fly, itch-mite, etc., play the rôle of intermediary host, but this has not been confirmed. That the disease is contagious there is no doubt, but it is not readily contagious, and can be transmitted from one person to another only after long-continued and intimate contact. Predisposing factors—bad hygiene, filthy environment, and unsanitary habits of living—are usually found to play a rôle in the transmission of the malady.



It is one of the oldest diseases known to man and one of the most stubborn. It starts its evil work through the action of a germ in the skin or the nerves and, if unchecked, can end in the complete withering away of bone, flesh and sinew. It is accompanied by pain and fever, and the bewilderment of those stricken with something terrible and strange. Found wherever man can exist, it is more prevalent in certain areas. It is not readily transmitted from person to person, but is infectious—that is, it can be "caught" through careless or ignorant contact.

Leprosy is not only a dreaded illness of the body, but a sad malady of the spirit. For centuries, the leper was stoned, cast out, left to die alone and in misery. He had no place in the world, the world had no place for him. Today, through slow and patient work, the spiritual as well as the physical sickness is being healed.

HIS COMMAND!

MATTHEW 10.8

8 Heal the sick, raise the dead,
cleanse the lepers, cast out demons:
freely ye received, freely give. 9



What is being done?



A chaulmoogra oil injection



Leper women's compound in India



Diathermy treatment for a patient

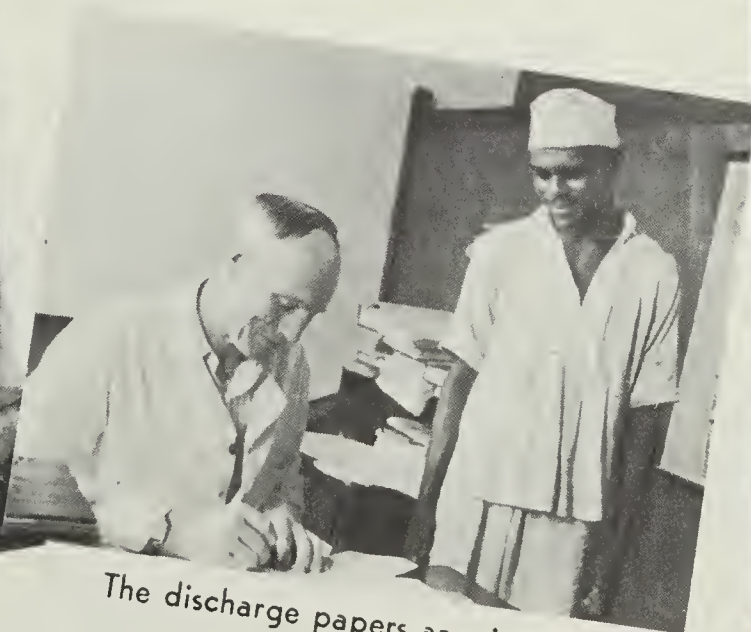
Everything possible to religion, modern science and public health is being done today—in different places, in varying degrees—to carry out the Biblical injunction "Cleanse the lepers."

An army of peace, the men and women working to eradicate leprosy from the earth go on year after year on the widest front in the world. The American Mission to Lepers is the instrument of every Protestant denomination in America in collecting and allocating funds to over 100 stations in more than thirty countries. There it makes possible the healing and teaching work of missionaries, is constantly responsive to scientific experiment, gathers out of the misery and danger of unprotected social life many thousands of lepers and their children.

While the scientists labor in their laboratories to find the elusive "cure," the Mission applies the results of past research—chaulmoogra oil, for one — on an ever broader scale. Each day the Mission brings the strong benison of Christian love to the shunned and the out-cast. Each year it makes new gains in cooperation with governments toward the establishment and maintenance of colonies. And though the number of men, women and children it has saved and trained for useful lives is but a small fraction of the millions who still remain, that number is by so much a victory over despair and death.



A typical patient's cottage



The discharge papers are signed



Here Indian lepers worship Christ

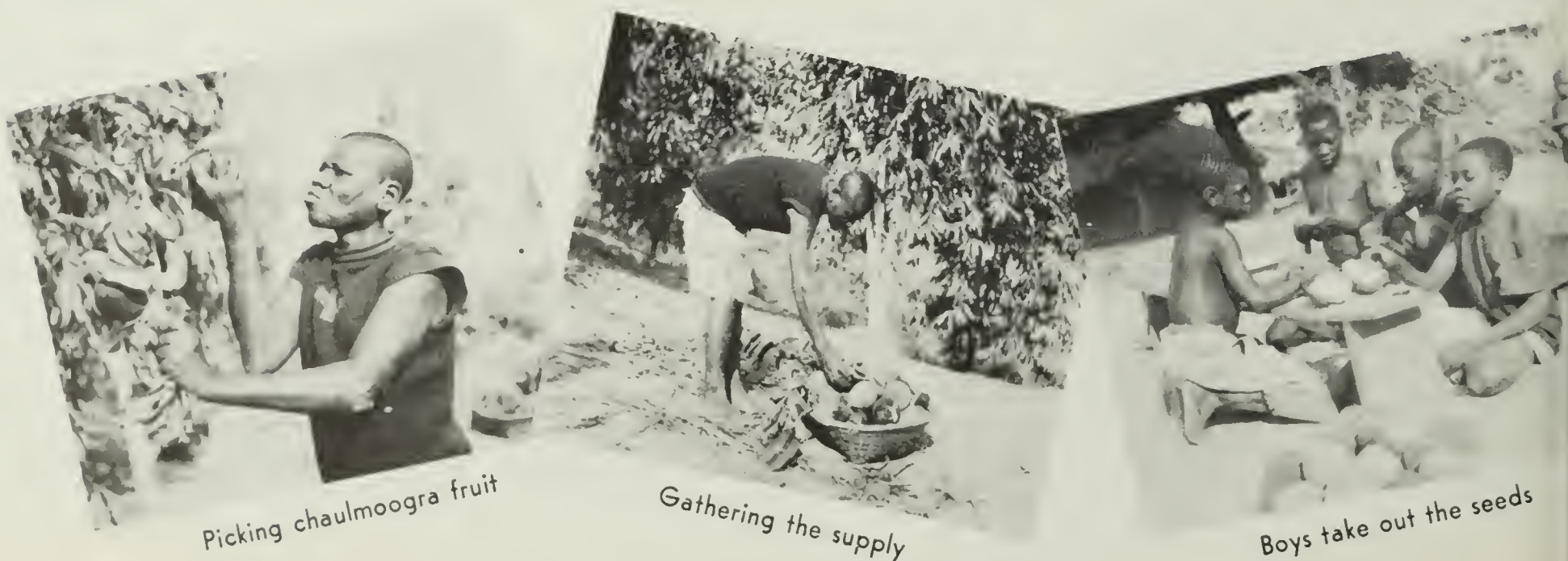
The Story of Chaulmoogra

The final, complete cure for leprosy is not yet found. But there is a tested medical treatment which, if applied early enough, can make many a patient "symptom free." And to be "symptom free" means to be able to return to normal life, as from any other long illness.

"Chaulmoogra" is the potent word, known to lepers in every land. It is not new, for it is recorded in pre-Buddhistic times in Indian history, and in other ancient records. But today's use of the seeds of the hydnocarpus and related trees—which go into the making of chaulmoogra oil—is quite new.

Through trial and experiment the present injection method was evolved. Combined with healthy living conditions, proper work and exercise and a happy mental state, it has been marvelously effective.

Today in the jungle, lepers are gathering the large, coconut-like fruit of the leafy tree. Together they break it open and patiently extract the seeds. Then, working with the precision of practise and the eagerness of hope, they crack the seeds, take out the kernels and, in a great press, slowly squeeze out every drop of the shining oil. Surplus supplies of the precious liquid go to other stations, many in distant lands.



Picking chaulmoogra fruit

Gathering the supply

Boys take out the seeds



The kernels are removed



They go into the press



Out comes the oil of hope



A typical village in Bibanga

In the heart of the J

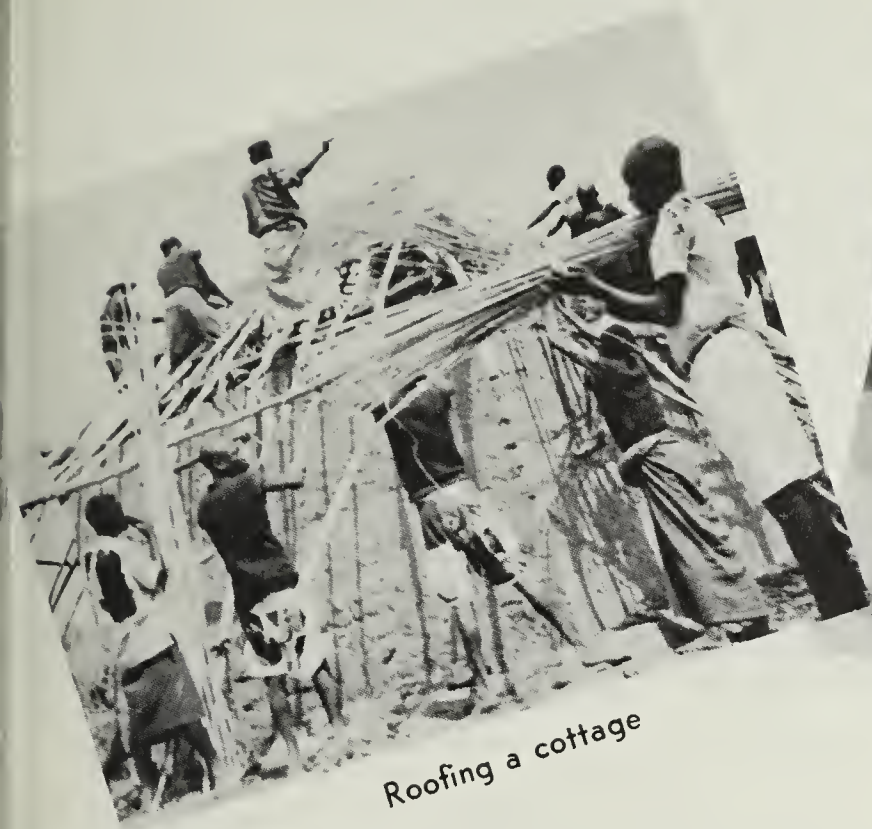
A vast and luxurious continent teeming with life in all its forms, Africa has been one of the centers of leprosy since the dawn of man. Across its jungles, hills and plains, the disease ranged unchecked for centuries—until modern times.

Here came the first brave missionaries, bringing faith and hope to forgotten peoples. Here they created the first simple buildings. Here, among an almost unbelieving native population, spread the first word that a leper's life offered something more than despair and bitterness.

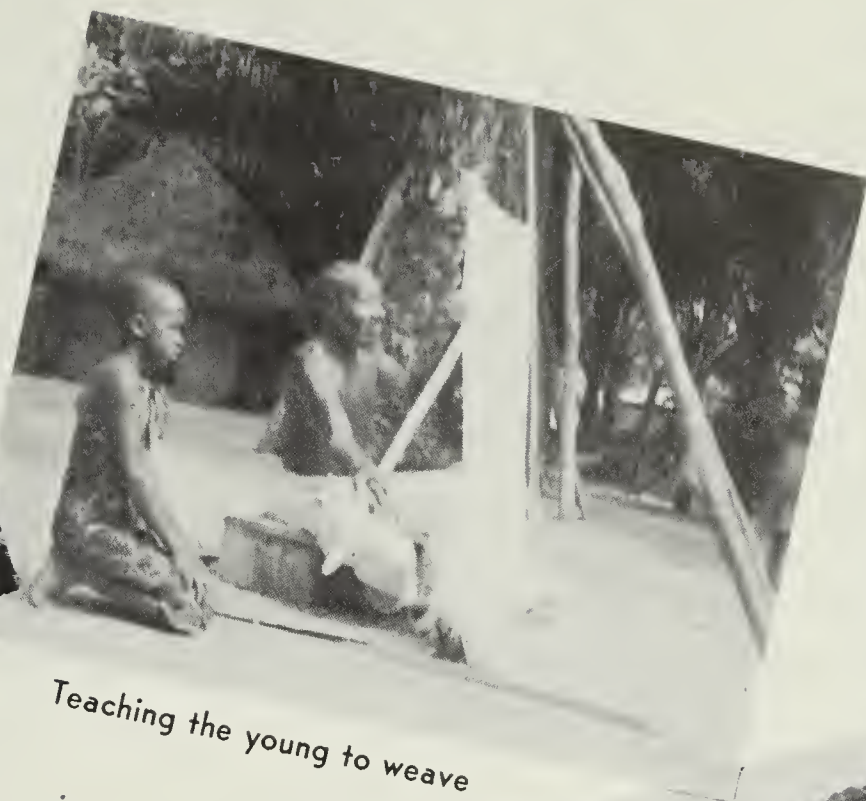
Today there are 33 leper colonies in Africa built with funds from Protestant men and women, boys and girls, in the United States and with monies appropriated abroad. They are scattered through the possessions and protectorates of four European countries and in one independent African nation. They are administered in different ways: some entirely by mission



ngle Land



Roofing a cottage



Teaching the young to weave



Talking things over

boards, others jointly with governmental and local agencies. They vary from a tiny outpost in the forest to a substantial village reached by modern roads.

Here, in each colony, is a city in miniature. Those in charge must solve the problems of medical treatment, spiritual ministration, food, clothing, shelter, sanitation, employment, education, recreation, and all the petty worries revolving around them. Facilities for communication are, on the whole, still primitive. Transportation can be difficult. Often, everything from the ground up must be created with the hands—and the brains.

So they build. Homes, hospitals, churches, schools in different materials and shapes go up all over Africa. Men and women come flocking, to help to build and to be helped in turn. It is a stirring scene—a picture only faintly outlined so far. With help and devotion, it should one day be a glowing canvas.



Playing at worship services



Earnest concentration

A Day in the Life of a Leper

Mr. Sohn is one of the young patients in the Taiku Leper Hospital, in Korea. Energetic, friendly, with the keen intelligence typical of his people, he is eager to rid himself of the disease and to be useful to others. Except for the daily medical treatment, his life is as normal as that of any youthful Korean.



Morning wash-up occupies Mr. Sohn and his friend, Mr. Lee. Hot and cold water are provided, and a shower is available at the far end of the washroom.



Vital part of the day's life is the worship service in the chapel. Most of the patients soon become Christian.



The patients gather for group singing, one of the most enjoyable activities. Their teacher was a seminary student when she contracted leprosy.



The garden of forty acres occupies another group. Quite small, it produces enough for the hospital for a month—if the rain comes!



Women work too, especially at the wells. When there is a water shortage, the wells are busy spots, and women wait their turn.



Breakfast—the native unpolished rice and barley, with a bit of beans. There is also a dish of pickles. Grace is said before each meal.



Twice each week, the patients get their "shots" of chaulmoogra oil. Mr. Sohn is receiving his injection from a leper nurse.



School comes after lunch, so Mr. Sohn—a competent teacher and proud of it—prepares the lesson with great care.



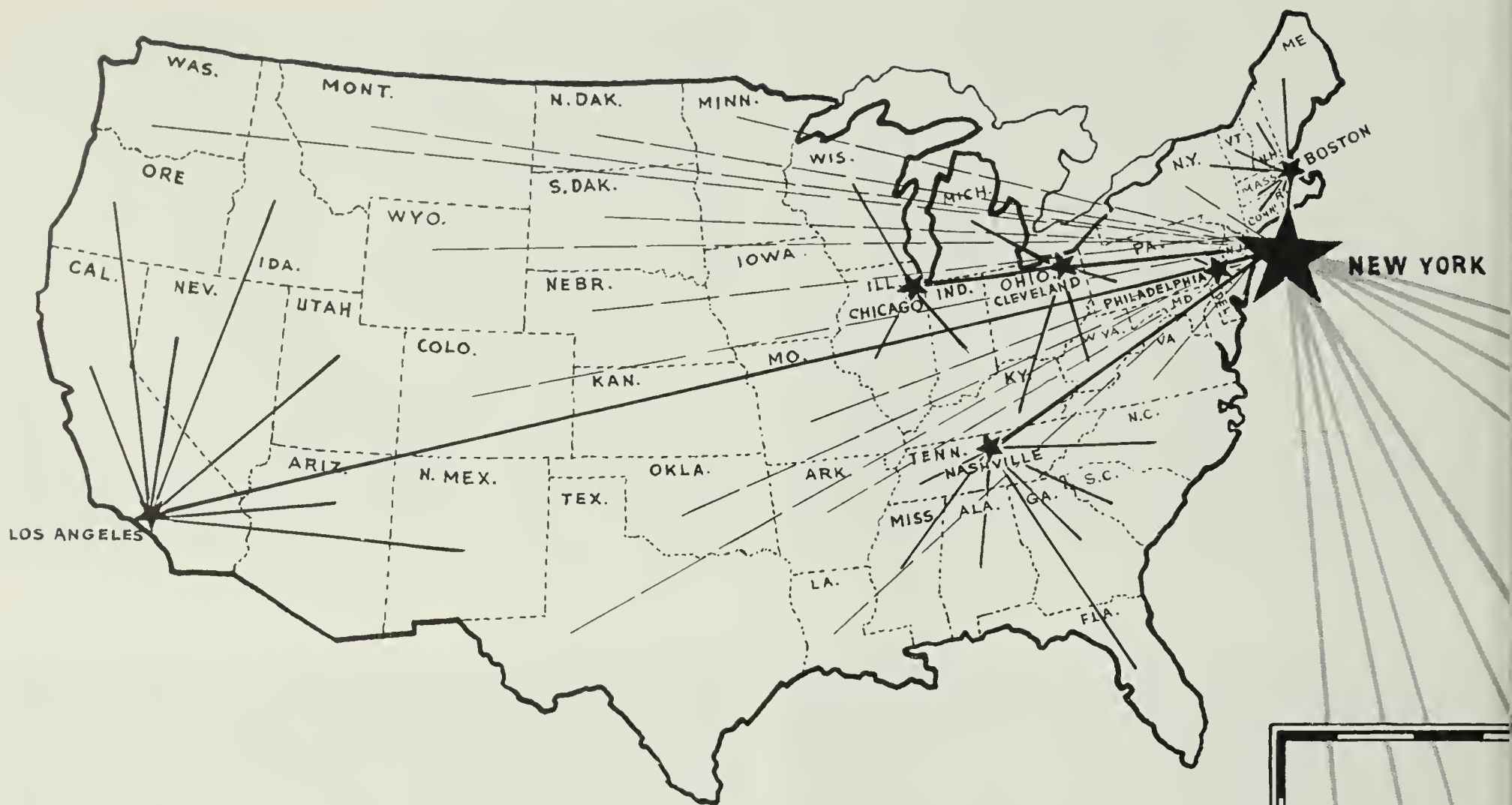
Going through the grounds, Mr. Sohn passes a group making cement brick. Most of the building materials are prepared by patients.



On his way to bed, Mr. Sohn passes through a beautiful rose arbor built by the patients. Note the neatness and order.



Bed-time, and according to Korean custom the lepers sleep on simple mats, hard pillows. The patients keep the rooms in order.



Help Flows Forth

From California, Oregon, Nevada, Idaho and Utah, and the states of the great Southwest, money and letters come in a steady stream to the American Mission to Lepers helpers at Los Angeles—and are forwarded to New York. From Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Wisconsin, bulging pig banks "go to market" at Chicago—and the contents continue to New York.

From Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts and all New England via Boston—from Kentucky, West Virginia, Michigan and Ohio via Cleveland—from Alabama, Florida, Georgia and all the Southeast via Nashville—from givers in Pennsylvania and New Jersey via Philadelphia—and directly from those states not affiliated with regional offices—the vital leper funds go to national headquarters in New York.



Out of the metropolis, in a broad stream made up of scores of little tributaries, help in the form of funds and supplies goes to many of the suffering people of the world. The branch secretaries and the small unit at headquarters make up the paid staff; all the rest of the work in this country is done by volunteers. From the little group saving pennies in a single pig bank in Arkansas to the Christmas contributor of \$1000, each plays his part in widening the river of aid.

The maps at left and below show in graphic form the sources and outlets of American help to helpless lepers.





IN WHITE CLOUD 25 YEARS AGO WILBUR CHAPMAN

A 10 YEAR OLD BOY RAISED AND SOLD
A PIG 'PETE' TO HELP SUPPORT A LEPER
BOY. HIS EXAMPLE STARTED THE PIG
BANK MOVEMENT. 100,000 BANKS HAVE
BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO DATE. FEEDING
THESE BANKS IS HELPING RID THE
WORLD OF LEPROSY AND IS CARRYING OUT
CHRIST'S COMMAND:
"CLEANSE THE LEPERS"

THIS PLAQUE IS PLACED HERE
TO COMMEMORATE THAT WORTHY EVENT
BY THE FRIENDS OF THE
AMERICAN MISSION TO LEPERS, INC.



Unveiling the plaque

Mr. Danner



White Cloud's commemorative plaque



Wilbur Chapman today

"Pete" does his part

An idea can move mountains—or at least a flock of "pigs" whose numbers have already passed the 100,000 mark.

Wilbur Chapman, now in his mid 30's, was the first in a distinguished line of pig owners. He started it all, when he was a ten-year-old on a Kansas farm. From the idea that grew in his childish, earnest mind have already come more than \$1,000,000



Mrs. Harrison

and innumerable friends for the American Mission to Lepers. The future is equally bright.

It is a unique tale. Here was a boy who had heard of the horrors of leprosy, in particular of the bleak life of leper children. His imaginative mind sought ways to help these distant sufferers. Then, happily, came three silver dollars—presented as a parting remembrance by William Danner, then general secretary of the Mission, at the end of a visit to Wilbur's home. The way lay open. Wilbur bought a pig, named it "Pete," got the whole town interested, tended it, fattened it, finally sold it for \$25. The money went to a leper boy in Siam.

For a time the idea lay dormant. Then, suddenly, it took hold in different parts of the country. In Philadelphia, a group of ladies on the "Sunday School Times" decided to buy a china pig since they couldn't have a real one, and save for the lepers. In New York, Mr. Danner told his friends, encouraged them to adopt the plan. In Richmond, Va., Mrs. R. R. Harrison spread the word, soon became the "Honorable First Pig Lady of America."

By Fall, 1937, just 100,000 pig banks had been distributed and \$1,000,000 raised through them. In May, 1938, there was a gala twenty-fifth birthday celebration at White Cloud, Kansas, Wilbur's boyhood home. From May, 1938 to May, 1939—the anniversary year—more than 7,000 new pigs were distributed.

"Pete" is doing his part—and leprosy is lessened because of him.



And You?

So much to do—so little time, so little power. So many waiting, deprived, distorted, life blocked across for them, dragged slowly down to a dead end. Waiting for the touch of the Master of Life. Waiting for me to be His eyes, His voice, His hands. Waiting—for me, who in this one small loan of years can never go to a thousandth part of those who wait.

Such are the five million persons (five million more or less!) now in the world with leprosy.

But I can "go" to those I shall never see. I can extend my life to them. I can have nine lives. I can have a nine-in-one life!

I can take that little boy crying into the sari of his mother, who leaves him at the gate. With \$100—maybe with \$60, with \$30 even—I can erase those livid spots from his young body—and his young heart too—and send him back home to play, "unclean no more."

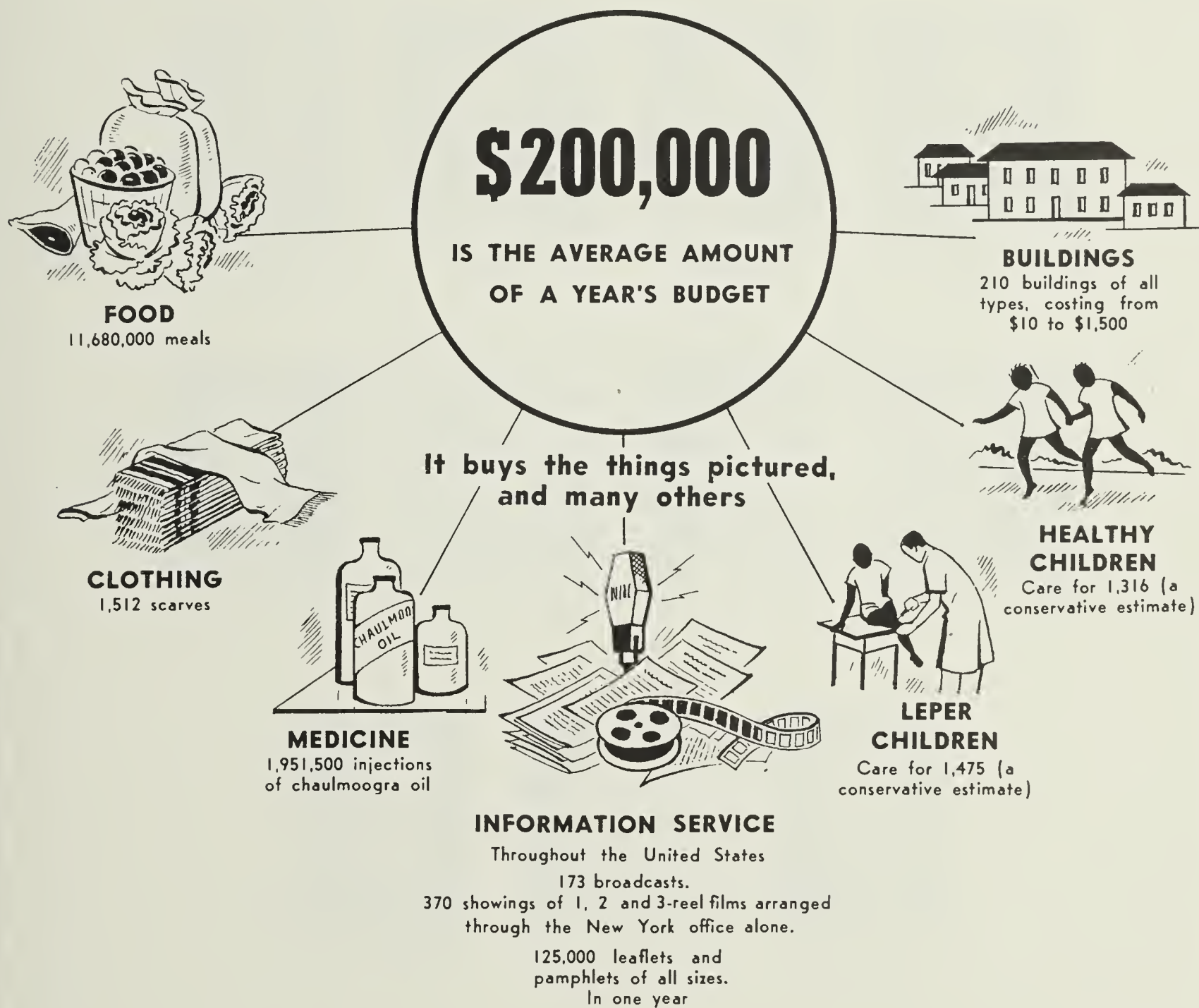
I can take that woman who "hath no form or comeliness," in whom "there is no beauty that one should desire her," dragging herself away from words of her husband more lacerating than the cuts of a lash. With \$240—maybe even with \$40—I can close the running wounds of her hands and feet—and the running wounds of her soul. If she can never be well, she can yet be at peace, folded into a community of friends and into a love that "will not let her go."

I can take that old man who lies in the drain beneath the culvert, in the snow. For three days he has had no food. Once he begged his food by the road over his head, but fever has struck him down. For \$12—in the country where he lives—I can give him meals for a year—730 of them! For \$1,200 I can build a house where he and a score like him can be warmed and fed, and spread no more the virus of his open sores to the children of his village home.

I can take that tiny girl-baby snuggled against her young mother's breast. There'll be tears when I do, but they'll turn to smiles in the end. I can keep her safe, happy, vigorous, unhurt, untouched by the dark flame slowly eating its way through her mother's body. For \$500 I can keep her so for fifteen years. Then she will go out, tested beyond danger, into the normal life of her country, and her mother who cried will kiss my very feet for joy. For \$1,500 I can build a Home where a "flock" of such babies can lie, beyond harm.

I CAN AND I WILL.

THE AMERICAN MISSION TO LEPERS
 CONDUCTS A PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL MINISTRY IN
 MISSIONARY, PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENT COLONIES WHICH
 CARE FOR 35,000 PERSONS



Out of the annual budget, the Mission also supplies such
 material and spiritual aids as wells, coats, shoes, blankets,
 bandages, fuel, farming materials, surgical supplies, Bibles,
 eye treatments, sermons, evangelists, and even a few cows to
 give the children milk.

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of the
AMERICAN MISSION TO LEPERS, INC.



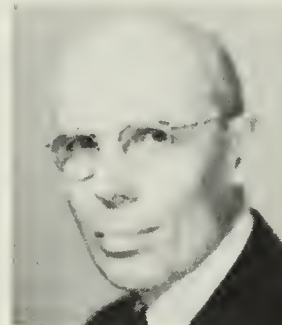
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